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### PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH's

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO SOUTH VIET MAM ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE

Havoi March 16 1060

To President NGUYEN HUU THO, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (with request to forward to our dear compatriots cadres and fighters in South Viet Nam)

RARLY Spring this year, in their relentless and widespread attacks on the enemy, the armed forces and people of the heroic South displayed a very great skill and achieved very considerable successes.

I am very glad to send you my warmest and most affectionate congratulations. For all their heavy losses, the US aggressors have not yet given up their aggressive design and reconciled themselves to withdrawing their troops from our country.

Therefore, we must continue fighting with vigour and striking devastating blows till the US-puppets are thoroughly defeated and South Viet Nam is completely lihorated

I send you many kisses

With affectionate and "determined-to-win" greetings. UNCLE HO

### REPEATED U.S. **REVERSES**

o In Day Tieng Region At Ben Tranh Attacked

For the Third Time: 500 U.S. Casualties

East of Saigon A Second Thai Battalion Wiped Out

In Tra Vinh Province

A Puppet Battalion Whittled Down

In Four Mekona **Delta Provinces** 

64 War Vessels and Launches Sunk Or Burnt

page 8

#### ALKS have been held in TALKS BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC Hanoi between a delegation of the government VIET NAM GOVERNMENT AND SOUTH VIET NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIRERATION DELEGATIONS



of the DRVN led by Premier Pham Van Dong and the delegation of the South Viet Nam NFL led by Dr Phung Van Cung, Vice-President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Front, President of the South Viet Nam World Peace Committee and President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Red Cross.

posted each other on the solidarity between the people and armed forces of both zones, on their fighting, production and building of the rear and on the brilliant victories won by them. On the basis of a perfect identity of views concerning assessment of the situation, both delegations have reaffirmed that the urgent and serred task now facing the Vietnamese people as whole is to perseveringly drive ahead the resistance against American aggression, for national salvation, until total victory, in order to liberate the South, defend the North and ultimately achieve peaceful national reunification.

atmosphere of brotherhood between North and South.

### NIXON's LOSING WAR

T WO months after Mr. Nixon's inauguration, it is obvious that the it is obvious that the new president of the United States is only continuous Mr. Johnson's Viet Nam policy, and the Viet Nam policy, and the Viet Nam war which was unformed in Johnson's war 'is more and more becoming "Nyon's acre" as has been readerled by the American Jersey.

The phrase "war escala-tion" which was so often heard under the former pre-sident, has recently been put back in use by news com-mentators. And this because of a set of patent facts.

While in North Viet Nam S. aircraft have been car even indulging in bombing and strafing certain popu-lated areas in spite of the US undertaking to uncondi-tionally stop the bom-bardments on the whole territory of the DRVN, in South Viet Nam the US war of iggression has been substan tially stepped up. Thousands of new. That percenaries have been brought in, and the Saigon puppet army's strength raised to the level of Delense Secretary Melvin Laird just proposed that an additional 156 million dollars be car-marked for the "moderni-ation" of the Saigon army and that the budget for the Viet Nam war amounts to 23 billion dollars in the coming fiscal year. Hundreds of and population-herding operations mopping an opposition of the control actions involving at least one battation each, and AFP said on March 2 that some areas in the neigh-bourhood of Saigon consisting tourhood of Sargon consisting formerly of Insh rice-fields and luxuriant forests had been subjected for the last few months to day and night 1152 bombings which rendered all life impossible: on tens of kilometres on end, the ground was pock-marked with 12-metre wide, 3-metre

by President Nixon at his March 14 press conference was, however, indirectly ad-mitted by Mr. Laird himself who declared, on Feb. 6, that is two weeks after the new formed, that the military policy of the United policy of the United States, was to keep up preasure in South Vist Nam white peace talks were the peace talks were the state of the peace talks were the state of the peace talks were the state of the peace talk was to be a state of the peace talk with the peace talk was the p

It is this policy of war intensification advocated by the White House and the Pen-tagon which finally created a stir in public opinion in the world and the United States, and among US senators as well. Ilasn't Mr. Fulbright recently said he was "extremely disap-pointed" in Mr. Nixon's handling of the war situation, and that the United States had to bear " greater responsibility" in not de-escalating the fighting? And don't other senators, among others Mans-field, Mc Govern, Cl. Pell, J. Javits, share the same views?

Stemming the tide, Mr. Nixon bluntly threatened at his March 14 press conference to "take action" if the "level of (US) casualties is higher than we should tolerate." He also refused to envisage any withdrawal of US troops until the puppet army and administration in Saigon were consolidated. In other terms he publicly declared his intention pursue his war-like and aggressive policy at the expense of the Vietnamese people.

M R. Nixon undoubtedly tried to touch the chawinistic string of Americans when he referred to the high GI casualty figures in Viet Nam, But he only forgot that every people, including

F HARRIMAN is a career diplomat, Cabot Lodge a former presidential candidate of the Republican Party, is an

expert in subversion and

has given proof of his talent in the overthrow and murder of the Ngo Dinh Diem bro-

thers in 1963. A man slight-ing every principle of law,

he has gained fame at least with this retort of his when asked by a correspondent of

US News and World Report

to comment on the legal aspect of the US military action in Viet Nam on Feb.

15. 1055, a few days after the war of destruction against the DRVN was started; "To me the legal aspect of it is the least significant"...

One would say he is the reincarnation of the late

Bethmann Hollvegh, the man of the "scrap of pa-

The same Cabot Lodge, for whom legality is the least significant thing, however shouted himself

hoarse in the large room at Kleber Street to propose that the 1954 Geneva

that the 1954 Geneva Agreements be a "common ground" for a peaceful solution to the Viet Nam

What does he mean by

as they were defined in Cabot Lodge's statement at

sides of this demarcation

3) non-intervention and

non-aggression by one zone of Viet Nam against the other.

4) international control.

For anyone who has never

read the Geneva Agreements, these four points which can boil down to only one, name-

problem

the Vietnamese people, are entitled to the sacred and inalienable right of self-defence. And if he is not out of his senses, he must be aware that the only permissible way to keep his American boys out of harms' way is to repatriate them, which is the very demand of their own

Mr. Harriman, the former chief US delegate at the Paris talks, by chance hit it when he stated that the new wave of PLAF offensives was ly a response to military action by U.S. forces in South Viet Nam. With these attacks, our Southern compa-triots supplied a fresh proof of their undauntedness, resolve

16 congratulatory message to the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam: resourcefulness. some figures relating to first ten days of these so vll-coordinated ouslaughts the targets of attacks included armed forces and people of the heroic South displayed a very over 400 enemy positions in 36 cities and provincial capitals and one hundred great skill and achieved very considerable succeises."

district towns and military sud-sectors. The assaults were also mounted against 35 HQs of the enemy from regimental level upwards, 38 airfields and 17 big logistical treas. They resulted within 120 may 1 m 45,000 enemy cassible of the they are they are 23,000 enemy THE message of President Ho. has provided this accurate and concise assessment of the present situation in which the U.S. war escalation is being acutely " For all their heavy losses the U.S. aggressors have not yet given up their aggressive designs and have not yet reconciled themselves to withdrawing their troops from our country. 23,000 GIs and nearly 2,300 satellite troops. U.S. authorities themselves acknowledged that U.S. losses in troop

strength were heavier than early 1968. In spite of Enlightened by this pen their security precautions trating remark and exercising the U.S. command in Saigon the legitimate right to self-defence inherent in every nawere caught completely naption, our Southern combatriots ping as regards the time, are resolved to rush forward and translate into deeds the and methods of PLAF attacks. following words of our peo-ple's venerated leader: "Therefore, we must con-The PLAF have thus fully deserved President Ho Chi Minh praise in his March

tinue fighting with vigour and striking devastating blows, till the U.S.-puppets are thoroughly defeated and South Vict Nam is completely liberated."

In this effort the 14 million South Vietnamese can be assured of the wholehearted assistance of their Northern kith-and-kin and the support and approval of the entire progressive mankind,

# Cabot Ldoge and the 1954 Geneva Agreements

Early Spring this year, in

their relentless and widespread

attacks on the enemy, the

DO XUAN SANG DRVN Institute of Juridical Research

would mean an armistice between two belligerent States in Viet Nam.

However there has never been any such thing, and Cabot Lodge's way of defining the Geneva Agreements sim-ply and diametrically clashes

1054 Geneva Agreements put an end to the dirty colonial war waged by the French Expeditionary Corps against France's former colonies in Indochina and formally recognized the sovereignty, inde pendence, unity and territorial integrity of VietNam, Laos and Cambodia; the partici-pants in the Geneva Confer-ence undertook to refrain from any interference in the internal affairs of those states

the 1954 Geneva Agreements? Here are the four essential elements of these Agreements As far as Viet Nam is concerned, the establishment of a provisional military demarcation line on the 17th parallel and the creation of a DRVN on both sides of this demarcation line, was the fifth plenary session of the Paris Conference on establishment of a provisional military demar-cation line at the 17th parallel and creation of a demilitarized zone on both but a temporary mean fire and in no way constitu ted the goal of the Agreements. This has been substantiated in paragraph 6 of the Final Declaration of the Geneva Conference approved by its member countries including disengagement of belli-gerent forces and cessation of hostilities,

the U.S. Government. " The Conference recognizes that the essential purpose of the agreement relating to Viet Nam is to settle military questions with a view to ending hostilities and that the military demarcation line is provisional and should not in any way be interpre-

ly the creation of the DMZ, ted as constituting a political. territorial boundary.

> Cabot Lodge could not avoid stating that such a line was not a permanent limit but he did not under-line its purely provisional character. He also forgot deliberately to recall that "the settlement of political roblems, effected on the basis of respect for the principles of indepen-dence, unity and territorial integrity, shall permit the Vietnamese people to enjoy the fundamental freedoms' the fundamental freedoms and that "general elections shall be held in July 1956." (paragraph 7 of the Final Declaration).

Who hindered the holding of these general elections? It was the U.S. government which, as Eisenhower himself admitted, guessed that at least 80 per cent of the votes would be for Ho Chi Minh the national leader and against Ngo Dinh Diem, a mandarin and French, then Japanese agent who eventu-ally was in the payroll suc-cessively of the OSS and the CIA.

Who is the aggressor in Viet Nam if not the 600,000-strong American Expeditionary Corps supplemented by 60,000 satellife troops? The so-called U.S. "commitments" to the Saigon Govern-ment are juridically null and void as they challenge in-ternational law which requires respect for fundamen-tal national rights of various peoples, the 1954 Geneva Agreements and the forma pledge made by the U.S. Government to abide by those agreements (declaration by

Bedell Smith at the closing session of the Geneva Con ner of the U.S. is - and this is admitted by all democratic lawyers the world over - a puppet government in the full acceptation of the term.

It is thus crystal-clear that Cabot Lodge did not want in good faith to return to the fundamental principles of the 1054 Geneva Agree-ments. He wrested some por-tions of them to deceive world and American opinion. The re-establishment of the military demarcation line and the DMZ at the 17th parallel should — according to him — be intended to separate South from North Viet Nam and to give a new lease of life to the puppet regime in Saigon, that is U.S. neo-colonialism

s the least significant thing also insisted — and quite un derstandably — on the with drawal of troops of both sides, naturally to begin with of the South Viet Nam Liberation Forces.

This is indeed a howling hoax. And in trying to wrench the Geneva Agreements to serve U.S. neo-colonialist aggression, Cabot Lodge is cutting blocks with

proverb saying that when a liar tries to hide his head, he just uncovers his tail. In endeavouring to spell backward the Geneva Agreements, abot Lodge only exposes himself as a consummate ar and... a die-hard imperi

### THE NORTH—GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

of schedule. The tempo was

still higher this year. The

team of block-motors No 2,

which had boosted its daily

production from eight to

turn out eighteen the day

when the NFL delegation

visited the enterprise, al-

though among the woman

workers only one was fully

qualified. Asked why she

work to recover from her

illness. An Hong replied

with a smile: "How can I

take a rest when the entire

plant hums in honour of

the delegation? My illness

is nothing compared with the

sufferings of our Southern

brothers and sisters". Ther

she glanced with emotion at

the presents offered to the

not stay away from

twelve units, managed to

# The Large Front Held Dear visitors: a centrifugal foundry-machine labelled "Hamil-Hue-Sargen" and two brand new planning-machines. in the Workers' Hearts

(Notes on the NFL Delegation's visit to the Tran Hung Dao Engineering Plant)

THIS visit had been a long wished-for one. These Southern brothers and sisters had gone through such a terrible ordeal for all of us that who among us doesn't long to shake hands with them and proudly show them what we had done at the rear while they were toiling hard accomplishing feats of arms at the front. People have been waiting for them, but not with folded arms. As in other enterprises, in the Tran Hung Dao Engineering Plant the workers have devoted their hearts and souls to production and taken part in all engagements for the defence of Hanoi against U.S. aviation.

However, the news came as a thunder bolt: the NFL delegation which had just arrived in the capital was to call at the plant! What a great honour for us! Let us rapidly make streamers of greeting. But above all let us strive to overfulfil the targets set for the first quarter. On the machines named after heroic Southern localities, the workers chalked

their pledge to achieve productivity, quality of the goods and substantial saving of raw materials. Then, in a stirring atmosphere they have launched emulation drive to mark the event.

A N elite unit, the team of woman fitters No 11 decided to make of the reception day a work-day. Its twelve men bers who were new hands two years ago, had rapidly ac-quired the necessary knowhow to become now top notch workers. They had distinguished themselves both in production and in plane hunting. They had put in 1,377 extra-hours during the econd half of 1968,

The first gang worked wonders. But the records broken and the targets reached filled them with less joy and zeal than the anticipation of the visit.

A similar enthusiasm could be sensed in the foundrymer who, to quote their directors,

A the visitors, the enthusiasm mounted. The second gang of Team No 11 made it a point to outstrip the first. Mrs. Hoa, the youngest member of the group, worked without letup at her lathe which bore was credited with many the name of the South Vietachievements in 1968. An namese martyr Vo Thi Sau. emulation movement among As she had had the privilege them produced countless of meeting and speaking with innovations and a considerable amount of ray materials saved. The annual plan of the works was fulfilled ten days ahead

A FTER the departure of

,the end of the day all the records set in the morning were bettered. Hoa outwitted Yen, the champion of the team. Commended by her friends, she burst out into sobs. "That is not enough, she said. "While I think of all that they do and endure there in their resistance against the Yankees, I'd rather work myself to death than discredit myself in



(Nam Dan district, Nghe An province), native village of President Ho Chi Minh

OVER the last three years, after the Viet Nam Women's Union launched an emulation mo-vement under the watchword "Let us emulate the heroic women of South Viet Nam", Nam have proved to be their southern sisters' matches with remarkable achievements in the fighting as well as in

Tens of thousands of women have enlisted in the army and taken an active part beside men in military training and in the fight against the U.S. imperialists.

A few months after the launching of the drive, a group of militia women in Hau Loc district, Thanh Hoa province, shot down a U.S. jet with infantry weapons. -A year later, a unit of militia girls in Hoong Hoa district, same province, got down a flight ortwo American planes. Nguyen The Xuan, a 19 yearold militia woman in Quang Binh province, bagged by herself a Thunderchief

In Le Thuy district, Quang Binh province, a shore batNORTH VIFT NAM WOMEN EMULATE THEIR SOUTHERN SISTERS

tery exclusively composed of young militia women damaged on three occasions piratic warships of the U.S.-puppets. Truong Thi Khue, leader of a production brigade in agricultural co-op in Vinh Linh area, has taken part in more than 200 battles against enemy planes, contributing to the grounding of many planes and the capture of several U.S. air pirates.

A great many women have joined shock brigades whose tasks require a high spirit of self-abnegation: disposal of delayed-action bombs, repairing roads and bridges or serving as nurses or messen-

Many heroines have emerged during the arduous fight against the U.S. war of destruction. Nguyen Thi Shot,

Binh province, plied on small sampan between the river and never failed to ferry across gunners and other army men under the rain of enemy bombs and shells. During a tough battle at Ham Rong bridge, Ngo Thi Tuyen, militia woman of Thanh Hoa province, carried on her back 70 kilogrammes of ammunisupply the anti-aircraft batteries. Nguyen Thi Kim Hue, head of a team of Shock Brigade Youths in Quang Binh, helped her mates to complete ahead of schedule the repair of an important portion of road. During a fierce air raid Truong Thi Dien, a nurse in the same province, managed to rescue many people in defiance of

all dangers. Even during

an elderly woman in Quang periods when enemy airraids were most frequent. women workers did not leave their factories and fulfilled their production plans. They have continuously been trying advanced techniques to rais productivity. In the first nine months of 1968, the women textile workers of North Viet Nam produced an \*extra 11 million metres of cloth for a present to the Southern com-

> Despite multiple difficulties and obstacles caused by natural calamities and frequent raids by enemy planes and warships, the North Vietnamese peasants nevertheless, applied with success intensive cultivation. Many production teams led by women reaped five tons of

in a year (as against 1.3 tons under the colonial and feudal regime). In particular, the production team led by Nguyen Thi Cu in My Xa village, Hai Hung province, brought in a record 9-odd tons of paddy per hectare.

The women personnel of the Mothers and Children's Welfare Board has brought to fruition research on forty subjects connected with th health of mothers and children. Female medical workers of the Anti-T.B Institute have found new methods of treatment which are as simple as suitable to the war-time conditions.

The government has con-ferred Labour Orders, Mili-tary Orders and Exploit Orders on hundreds of women who have performed meri-torious deeds in production and the fighting.

Many women have been honoured beroines and hundreds of thousands of other elected Emulation Fighters several communities of wo men including 15 units of nilitia women have been decorated...

# NLF IS A REAL POPULAR GOVERNMENT

(Excerpts from an article in the Minority of One)

THAT the NLF is a real popular government in popular government in Sud Viet Nam has been graphically proved in an article published in the article published in the American monthly Minority of One. in October 1968.

"LIBERATION TERRITO-RY " VERSUS " NOMINAL. SAIGON TERRITORY

DEALING with the "Liberation Territory" and the "Nominal Saigon Territory", the authors - Larry L. Davis and Al

"How many people are under NLF authority? As the following evidence shows, about ten and a half million (or about three-fourths) of South Viet Nam's fourteen and a half million rural residents are under Liberation Front control. Lacking this intelligence, U.S. ground for-ces have difficulty making with the enemy.

"Without adequate inteland destroy operations in Liberation Territory are like bunts for a sliver of glass on a shag rug.

"We were completely walled out from contact with the people. So thorough was NLE control of the areas surrounding their camps, Special Forces civic action workers remained inside the perimeters of the camps even during the day,

" According to official U.S. Government estimates, in addition to the four million people of Liberation Terri-tory, another six and one half million rural Vietnamese in areas of nominal Saigon American authority,

under varying degrees of NLF control. And of these six and one half million those under weakest NLF authority teams placed on high buildings picked off Saigon policemen as they; rode policemen as they rode around in their jeeps. (The Saigon chief of police was wounded and his deputy at least pay taxes to the Liberation Fron Front. Thus, as ficial American estimates acknowledge, millions of Vietnamese living in "Saigon-controlled" areas are under partial control of the NLF government....

"Beyond all reasonable controversy, the NLF is the cool attempting to restore order. A half mile square of most powerful government in the South Victnamese countryside, N.F authority is not confined to the councity blocks was destroyed by the American Air Force. the American Air Force. Still guerrilla bands clung to tryside. The Liberation Front parts of the South-western and Southeastern edges of the city after weathering repeated air strikes, artillery also a potent force in the cities, as illustrated by AP correspondent Hugh Mulligan's account of an incident at Saigon's Phu Tho race at Saigon's Phu Tho race course in which he was warned by a security official not to venture out of the locality. (See Viet Num Coustrike in Saigon, NLF fighters frequently zeroed in on Saigon's police stations and

"More than just showing a tremendous NLF military "The files of the Saigon police show that the Liberacapacity in the cities, the Tet offensive and the more recent fighting in Saigon tion Front has undercover agents in every city in the

demonstrated that "The NLF's urban under-Liberation Front has a considerable following within cover agents perform a vital function: intelligence gatherfunction: intelligence gather-ing, For example, in Decem-ber 1967 the 170th Brigade of the torst Airborne was supposed to make a para-chute drop behind enemy lines. Shortly before the the urban areas.

operation was scheduled to

take place, an American reconnaissance plane took photographs of the landing site where the drop was to

showed NLF gun emplace

ments and a sign, "Welcome 176." The drop was

information.

agents exercise considerable influence in the cities.

Business establishments re

URBAN UPRISING

RECALLING the urban uprising early last year, Davis and Adams wrote:

" In January 1968 the Libe-

veil of screnity with an electrifying scries of uprisings in nearly forty major cities and towns, including twenty-

eight provincial capitals. Within Saigon urban guerrillas seized police stations; nine-

teen NLE commandos pene

trated the U.S. Embassy compound and fought their

way into the Embassy's consu-

lar building and various other buildings in the compound. And in South

maintained control for over

"In May the Liberation

Front struck again in the capital city. Two battalions

each were infiltrated. Sniper

wounded and his deputy killed), The NLF flag flew in various parts of Cholon,

a large Saigon suburb, for over A week.

The U.S. military lost its

barrages and ground assaults.

military posts.

"The NLF continued to

of the South-western

about five hundred men

liberation council

city.

three weeks.

Nam's third largest Hue, the NLF set up beration council and

ration Front rent the urban

cancelled.

made. The photographs

· In addition to gatherin

"From the standpoint of control over population, the NLF qualifies as a govern-ment. Exercising effective control over in the countryside than does the Saigon régime the Liberation Front also has considerable authority in the

#### NLF " NOCTURNAL EXTENSION "

F the "nocturnal exten-sion" of the NFL the authors wrote:

"What are the territorial boundaries of NFL-controlled areas ! Liberation Territory is not confined to any section of South Viet Nam. Rather, NLF Liberated areas are integrated throughout the South with territory the South wigh territory under Saigon authority. On official U.S. maps, the NLF's areas are shown as patches of red. The maps look like the skin of someone with a bad case of psoriasis.

"But the maps fail to show South Viet Nam's poli-tical night-life. Liberation Territory has a nocturnal extension. At dusk throughout nominally Saigon-controlled areas, hamlet chiefs leave their rural offices and drive to the towns and cities. As the Saigon officials scramble a heat the rush hour traffic, local NLF cadres openly don the mantle of authority and "Saigon controlled" hamlets become fully liberated - at least for the night.

"To accurately show the boundaries of NLP controlled areas, it is necessary to have two maps - one each for night and day. The map showing daytime control would resemble a checker board: red squares would represent the liberated areas, and black liberated areas, and black squares would show the areas under " Saigon control. " The map depicting nightime con-trol also have black and red squares. But more (about five out of six) squares would be red. (About five out of six, or about 10,500 out of 12,500 hamlets are without a Saigon

hamlet chief at night). "What responsibilities does the Liberation Front impose on the people under its con on the people and the U.S. Operation Mission in Viet Nam, the NFL collects taxes in ninety three per cent of the provinces in South Viet Nam. And in about two-thirds of the Southern provinces, NLF taxation pro-ceeds on a formalized basis with bond issues, tax tables and proper receipts, (According to the same USOM report, Saigon control is "acceptably effective" in South's provinces).

"When the NLF gains "When the NLP gains control of an area, it is ca-reful to reduce taxes on land and crops well below the government level or even to remit them for a while.

"NLF theoreticians are in earnest when they call the people have a responsibility. The young men fight. Little children carry messages. Wo-men sew uniforms and made crude but serviceable wea-pons. Even elderly women pons. Even elderly women sharpen punji, sticks. Thus American forces are confron-ted with more than an Army-a mobilized menle." a mobilized people."

#### NLF SERVES THE PEOPLE

HE co-authors thendescrib ed the services the NLF performs for the people : "A large majority of the Vietnamese people are pea-sants. One of the main ser-vices a government can provide for a peasant is to offer him land. The NLF has provided this service for the peasants of South Viet Nam.

"While the NLF has proprogram, Saigon has followed a land-from-the-tiller policy. a land-from the tiller policy.
Under existing Saigon policies, when rural areas are recovered from NLF control, ownership rights are trol, ownership rights are restored to the absentee landlords." This means that even if the occupants are permitted to remain on the land allocated to them they will return to the status of te-nants." So, the NLF offers a new deal to the majority of farmers in Viet Nam (the small operators farming land primarily owned by landlords), whereas Saigon represents a land policy baon landlordism and reac-

The authors also devoted an important part of their article to the educational and medical services in the free zone. They wrote:

"Besides providing land to the tiller, the NLF also also provides a system of free education for the people in Liberation Territory. in Liberation Territory.
After visiting villages in
Liberation Territory, an
Austrian journalist (Kuno
Knoebl) gave a first-hand
account of the Liberation
Front's village educational ogram. According According divided rated areas are divided into school districts. Each one has circuit-travelling educational cadres consisting of five or teachers, and usually including one or more women. The districts are suffi-ciently small for the migratory educators to visit every village on their circuit once or twice a month. They come with a prepared program and stay in each village from several days to a week.

"NLF educators make the most of limited teaching facilities. Students gene rally attend classes in all-purpose building, which, beyond serving as a school house, is also the people's meeting hall and village administration building. The teaching cadres bring the textbooks when they the textbooks when they visit a village. (Some villages own a few of their own school books.) The NLF's Ministry of Education provides the children with additional free education

"The teaching curriculum includes classes in writing, arithmetic, agricultural instruction, geopraphy, history, and a history of the South Viet Nam National Liberation Front. Especially designed South Viet Nam's warconditions, a dis-ve Practical Arts tinctive course is offered to children of Liberation Territory: a class in guerrilla

The NLF teaching cadres classes.

"The Liberation Front also gives the people free medical service. Although the Amer-Medical Association is not known for sympathizing with "socialized medicine", JAMA (Journal of the AMA C some kind words NO medicine. Quoted in JAMA a medical officer with the U.S. Special Forces, Captain Arthur Ahearn, re-vealed that the NLI provides good nedical care for its patients, even under adverse

"The Liberation Front's located in safe jungle areas. Their program, according to Abearn, is similar to that studied by a U.S. Army medic. They work in hospitals, many of them underground. Routine laboratory procedures on blood, urine, and stool are available in NLF hospitals, as are facilities for surgery, amputation, and orthopedic

native medicines and herb imitations. In Liberation Territory the poor peasant is given more opportunity individual advancement than is his counterpart in Saigon controlled areas.

"As admitted by a U.S. officical (Douglas Fike) probably it is safe to conclude that the group norm in the liberated area was characterized by a greater sense of equalitarian mm (than the group norm in American-Saigon areas), greater social mobility with merit counting for more and family for less, and a greater awareness of strata, class ciousness, or social soli-

#### CUBAN ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO NFL PRESIDENT

RAUL Valdes Vivo, Ambasand Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, presented on March 4 his credentials to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee.

In his speech on the occasion, the Cuban envoy said his people always felt fraternal love and solidarity for the South Vietnamese people and their organizer and leader, the National Front for Liberation. He expressed the confidence of the Cuban people and

government in the final victory of the national liberation struggle of the South Vietnamese people.

In his reply, President Nguyen Huu Tho hailed the sending of the Cuban diplomatic mission to South Viet Nam Liberated areas as a significant strengthening of the warm friendship between the South Vietnamese and the Cuban peoples. He also thanked the Cuban people and government for their support to the South Vietnamese people's struggle. "The South Vietnamese people and NFL highly value that righteous and wholehearted support", he said.

#### DEDICATED LEADERS

OF the leaders of the authors

" In sum, three points can be made about the Liberation Front leaders. They are native Southerners... And the NLF's two principal officials, Nguyen Huu Tho and Huynh Tan Phat, have for nearly two decades been prominent in revolutionary activities in South Viet Nam.

"In addition to having a governmental capacity which is physically independent of Hanoi, the NLF also has an independent military capacity. This was admitted by General Maxwell Taylor who is a former U.S. ambassador to Viet Nam as well as a former chairman of the U.S. military's Joint Chiefs of

"Taylor said that even without assistance from the North, the NLF Army could conceivably remain in action for the next ten years, or the next twenty years, and we might still be tied down by this vast guerrilla action. (In contrast to the NLF's physical independence of outside assistance, Saigon is completely dependent on external support: America's Since 1954, the U.S. has supplied Saigon with over ninety per cent of the equipment used in training its army. And since 1957, the U.S. has paid about two-thirds of even the non-military expenditures of the Saigon Government.) To put it bluntly, Saigon is an American sa-tellite. If the U.S. government had to pay an income tax, it cou'd claim Saigon as a dependent. The Saigon re-gime is so reliant on Amercan aid that if U.S. assistance were withdrawn, the Saigon government would collapse before NLF leader Nguyen Huu Tho could get to the

presidential palace in the capital city...

" An important part of the NLF's authority rests on the popularity it has attained by identifying closely with the people. The Liberation Front has organized associations for everyone regardless of age or

"The Liberation Associations were led by dedicated NLF cadres... The Liberation Front's underground government is more than a mitch for the American military, as shown in the nominal Saigon-controlled areas where NLF cadres control millions of people behind the troops and Saigon officials. The essential strength of the Ni.l's village administration (whether underground, in nominal Saigon-controlled areas or aboveground in Liberation Territory) is a direct personal relationship between local Liberation Front administrators and villagers. This relationship is cemented by a racial, cultural, and lingual identity.

In the authors' opinion, the Saigon administration is but a "puppet" régime. They wrote:

" The Thieu-Ky regim: is totally dependent on American support. If that support were withdrawn, the Saigon government would fall, the NI E would win, and the war would be over. Thus, in the final analysis, the war sis perpetuated by the American government's determination to sustain Saigon. As long as the U.S. refuses to withdraw support from Thicu and Ky. the U.S.-North Vietnam talks in Paris (or talks between anyone, anywhere, at anytime) will be of no avail. And American military might will continue to be frustrated by the government power of the NLF.

RECRUDESCENCE OF U.S. AND QUISLINGS' CRIMES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1969

recrudescence of U.S. destroyed over 1,000 houses. Lebruary I to 0 ). A and quislings' crimes including churches and in South Viet Nam in Feb. and March 1969 has been reported by Giai Phong Press Agency and the statement dated March 15, 1969 of the Committee to Denounce War Crimes of the U.S. Imperialists and their Henchmen in South Viet Nam.

SOUTH VIET NAM

A big raid conducted by 8,200 GI's, satellite and puppet troops in Ba Lang An. Quang Ngai province' ended on February 3 with 11,000 people penned up in concentration camps, many others tortured or manhandled and their whole property destroyed.

A second raid codenamed Operation Kentucky launched in Ounng Nam province (North of South Viet Nam) ending on February 28 resulted in tens of thousands of people killed or wounded and hundreds of hamlets or villages flattened. .

Meanwhile, in the southern part of South Viet Nam) including many regions in East Nam Bo) the U.S. and puppets also perpetrated savage crimes, the most monstrous of which was the destruction on February 26 of Thai Hiep village (Bien Hoa province), inhabited by 2,700 catholics and located along Highway No'r between Bien Hoa air base and the Long Binh logistic complex. In one day from early morning to 5 p.m. American planes dumped all kinds of bombs, fired rockets and sprayed toxic chemicals, and after a 6-day raid (from

schools. A do. en Catholics' who were saying their prayers and many schoolchildren were killed. It is to be recalled that earlier on February 23. U.S. demolition bombs and rockets had levelled to the ground the railway station of Bien Hoa town, kill-

ing many dozen people and destroying hundreds of hou-Many areas in Thu Dau Mot province (also in Eastern Nam Bo) were also struck with ferocity. On March 11, . B.52s carpet-bombed the heavily populated villages of Thanh An and Thanh Tuyen, Ben Cat district, caus-

> property to the local people. The previous day. March to, many American planes rained steel-pellet bombs on the section of Road No 11 passing through Ben Chua hamlet. Thach An village and sprayed toxic chemicals many times on it, wreaking havoc on the local people. A fortnight before, on February 26, Long Nguyen, a village occupying an area of 3

ing heavy losses in lives and

province, had been erased from the map by B.52, Loc Hoa, a village located some dozen kilometres northwest of these two provinces and inhabited by the Stieng nationality (Loc Ninh district. Binh Long province was completely wiped out by U.S. planes and artillery

square kilometres in the same

In the Mekong River

delta, the most hemous crime of the U.S. and puppets was the massacre of the Hoa Hao believers to An Ginng province and the barbarous attack on O Claim pagoda (Soc. Trang province) first raid which took place from Lebruary 23 to 25, the enemy used lighter bombers. choppers, armoured cars and cannons and all kinds of bombs and rockets to devastate many areas in Tan Chau. Chau Phu and An Phu districts. Thousands of houses were burnt or destroyed, a great number of civilians killed or wounded. The losses in property amounted to hundreds of millions of pias tres. In Long Phu village and Phu Hoa and Phu Thanh hamlets (Phu Lam village) 53 people were killed including puppet troops on

In the second crime which occurred on March 27, Amerrican bombers poured 5 tons of demolition bombs on O Chum pagoda and its surroundings in Thanh Tri distriet. The pagoda was reduced to rubble and over 30 people of Khmer nationality killed or wounded.

These crimes and the March 9 statement by U.S. Minister of Defence Melvin Laird on the swelling the military budget in South Viet Nam are fresh proofs of the persistence of the U.S. government in its war of aggression in South Viet Nam.

NORTH VIET NAM

### FRESH U.S. WAR ACTS AGAINST THE DRVN

THE spokesman of the and 16, 1969 statements on recent U.S. acts of war.

Binh province. On the same recent U.S. acts of war.

On March 8, Americans warships bombarded Vinh Giang village, Vinh Linh area, the statements said.

On March 9 and 10, American guns based south of the DMZ lobbed shells on Vinh Son village, Vinh Linh area, and on Vinh Ninh village, Quang Ninh district, Quang Binh province.

issued on March 9, 11 sped on a number of localities day American infantrymen supported by tanks mounted a raid south of the DMZ and bombarded Vinh Quang village, Vinh Linh area.

> These war acts of the U.S. have caused losses in lives and property to the local people. They infringed upon the sovereignty and threatened the security of the DRVN

On March 15, demolition and showed that the U.S. DRVN Foreign Ministry bombs and CBUs were drop continued to step up their acts of war against the Vietnamese people and blatantly challenged opinion in the world and the United States as well.

> The spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry strongly denounced such hostile acts and firmly insist ed that the U.S. end them once for all. The U.S. must be entirely responsible for all consequences arising there from, he stressed.

VIET NAM COURIER

VIET NAM COURIER

## ITALIAN PEOPLE Staunchly Support Viet Nam

Feb. 27, 1969, pursuing his tour of West European countries— its goals being to enlist their support for American Viet Nam policy .- U.S. President Nixon arrived in Italy, Hardly had be set foot an angry protest from thoumonstrators turning out in the streets. While Nixon was having a talk with Italian President Saragat in the Oni to it, chanting: "End Viet Nam War" "Nixon go then staged a sit-in around the palace. This was only one of the

countless actions in support of Victnam by progressive Italians, heirs to Garibaldi's tradition, who clearly realized good catalyst for the Italian people's struggle as well as for the struggle of progressives the world over." (1)

#### SINCERE AND FRIENDLY WORDS

TALIAN workers and progressives' warm sympathy with Viet Nam and strong feeling against the U.S. im perialist aggressors date back to the day when these landed their first troops in our country. Their sympathy is all the deeper as every day they witness offences by American in U.S. bases, On Jan. o. 1966, 3,000 women in Reggie Emilia staged a demonstration, with such mottoes as: namese women!" "The Italian government must not L.S. policy in Viet the U.S. imperialists relin-quish their military bases in Italy,

Together with the Italian Communist Party, the Italian United Proletarian Socialist Party and other organizations like the Permanent Committee to Struggle for Peace and Freedom in Viet Nam, the Association of Italian Fighters in Support of Viet Nam, the Committee to Help Vietnam-ese Proneers have hit upon many initiatives to rally and spur into action the masses. Many delegations of Italian. peace fighters, women, youths and intellectuals have gone gations of the DRVN and the NFL to the Paris Con-

Every event in Viet Nam rouses the Ralian people's interest, from US mass massa-cres of South Vietnamese to its savage bombing of North Vint namese villages and towns, from US lamentable setbacks during the general attacks and

ference on Viet Nam

ces and people in Spring 1968 to the splendid feats of the North Vietnamese armed forces and people's downing the 1,000th, 2,000th, 3,000th US plane... On March 8, 1969 national Women's Day and the 9th Founding Anniversa-ry of the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union, in Milan 10,000 people paraded in the streets DRVN yellow-starred red flags and NFL flags, demanding that Nixon be hanged, that the US end immediately its war of aggression against Viet Nam, and protesting a gainst the obduracy and per-fidy of the US delegation at the Paris quadripartite con-ference on Viet Nam.

Madame Borelini, who earned a gold medal during the war against fascism, said in a meeting of welcome to the Viet Nam women's delegation visiting Italy in August 1968; My husband died 23 years ago but today on learning of the successes of the Vietnamese people from our Vietnamese friends I am happy as I was on my wedding day. The Vietnamese people fight very valiantly against the US aggressors. Our Vietnamese friends are ready to make sacrifice for everybody. So each Italian must resolutely support the Vietnamese peo ple politically, morally and materially."

During her visit to Viet Nam, Mrs. Carmen Zanti made clear to us that the fight of the Vietnamese people had had a good effect on a number of Italians who, for one reason or another, were formerly misled by reactionary parties. truth and left the Christian Democratic Party in protest against its U.S.-inspired against its U.S.-in position on Viet Nam.

The stern indictment of U.S. imperialist crimes in Viet Nam made by Lawyer Lelio Basso at the Copenhagen session of the Bertrand Russell International Tribunal, the statements in support of Viet Nam by the President of the Milan Christian Trade Union Accli, by poet Raphael Alberti, a Lenin Interna tional Peace Prize winner... are treasured in the hearts of the Vietnamese people.

CASTINTED SUPPORT TO VIET NAM AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION

HE resolution on Viet Nam unanimously passed by the 12th Congress of on Feb. 14, 1969, read among liras. Jacomo Manzu, a wellother things :

"The 12th Congress of the Italian Communist Party calls on all Italian democratic and peace forces to step up the activities of the broad masses now struggling against U.S. imperialism to help towards its complete defeat and the ultimate fulfilment of the Vietnamese people's aspiration". In response to the Party's

appeal, the Italian working

class and labouring people

have devised many innovations in support of Viet Nam: to work extra-hours, to contribute part of their wages, to collect medicine. to sell newspapers and books, to stage theatrical perfor-mances... The name of this paper - Viet Nam Courier has been given by our Italian friends in the Viet Nam Committee - Italian section of the Bertrand Russell International Tribunal (2) to a newspaper carrying news on the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression. Italian peace bodies, mass organizations, intellectuals, youths, women. writers and artists have worked out specific programs of action for each and every drive. Thus in 1966, within a few days the Committee for Medical Aid to Viet Nam

to three times. Among the youths and students, there has been quite a movement to volunteer and fight in Viet Nam. In the two meetings with them in Rome and Venise, the Viet Nam women's delegation visiting Italy was repeatedly asked : "When can we Italian youths and students, who have volunteered to fight the Yankees in Viet Nam, set off?"

NE cannot recall all the sincere words and the righteous deeds prompted by friendship of progressive Italians, who have been standing side by side with the Victnamese people to fight for a common goal: to wipe out the US imperialist aggressors for the liberation of oppressed nations, for peace and security through out the world. The Vietnamese people will for ever remember and appreciate the support and assistance of the Italian people, and regard it as a great stimulus for their struggle against US aggression, for national salvation

(1) Statement by Mrs. Carmen Zanti, head of an Italian women's delegation during a friendly visit to the DRVN in

(2) Comitato Viet Nam Sezione Italiana del Tribunale Russell.

### NEW U.S. PROVOCATIONS AGAINST KOREA

known sculptor, presented to

our people the money he got

along with a 1967 Lenin Inter-

national Peace Prize (nearly

30 000 dollars) and planned to

make a statue of a Vietnam-

ese woman guerilla. Painter

Carlo Levi has completed

many valuable works on our

people's patriotic resistance against US aggression and

dedicated the proceeds of their sale to the Viet Nam

funds. Many women have

donated the most cherished,

souvenirs of their wedding:

a ring, a pair of ear-rings, a

bracelet. Mrs Pischel Colotti,

a journalist, has translated

many articles on the Viet

namese people's fight to

acquaint the Italian people

Will Win" constitutes a valua-

ble token of her friendship

What is more moving is

that the Italian people have

not spared their blood which

they sent to Viet Nam to

help save wounded soldiers

at the front. In a town near

Trieste, the population have

at a plant in Milan have come

forward in the "Give your

blood for the Vietnamese peo-

ple struggling against US ag-

them have donated blood up

contributed 300 litres of

metallurgists

drive, and many of

for our people.

blood. All the

with it. Her book "Viet Nam

THE spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam issued on March 14 a statement on the U.S. imperialists' new war provocations against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The statement reads:

The U.S. imperialists are sending a great number of troops and large quantities of war means from the United States to South Korea for a large scale "joint mobile exercise " from March 15 to 20, 1969 together with U.S. occupation troops in South Korea and South imperialists against the DPRK. Ever since they had to

sign the Korean armistice agreement, the U.S. imperialists have continued their military occupation of South Korea. Acting hand in glove with the Pak Jung Hi clique of puppets, they have provoked thousands of armed clashes in the temporary military demarcation line area. while savagely repressing the patriotic movement of the South Korean people.

The systematic armed provocations mentioned above are part of the U.S. impe-Korean troops. This is an, rialists' scheme to prepare overt provocation by the U.S. for a new war of aggression

against the DPRK. They constitute serious breaches of the Korean armistice agreement and threats to the security of the DPRK and peace in Asia and the world.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam fully support the sensible position of the DPRK Government as made clear in the statement published b the spokesman of the DPRK Foreign Ministry on March 10, 1060. They firmly insist put an immediate end to all provocative acts against the DPRK, and withdraw all U.S. aggressor troops and LICH's



General Vo Nguyen Giap and Heroine Kan Lich

# Baptism of fire

Editor's Note — Kan
Lich, 26-year old heroine
of the South Viet Nam
PLAF, belongs to the Pako minority people in the
mountain area of Western
Thua Thien. She has taken Thua Thien. She has taken part in 49 battles, inflicted on the enemy 41 casualties, shot down a US military snot down a US military cargo plane, with an Amer-ican captain onboard. She is a member of the NFL delegation now visiting North Viet Nam.

DAY broke. The jungle was shrouded in a dense morning mist, As soon as Vai (1) had given her her assignment, Kan Lich led the men off, her command was squad of guerillas reinforced by three members of the Li-beration Army. Their mission ocration Army. Their mission was to steal into the hamlet, spring a surprise attack on the enemy to draw their fire while other units of the Liberation Army would deliver

the main punch and wipe out the enemy,

This was the first battle at that, since the enemy was five times as numerous.

"Never mind, we'll lick then all the same", Kan Lich reassured herself. Under her reassured herself. Under ner guidance the party quickly and screetly disappeared into the jungle and headed for the enemy-held hamlet. The nearer they got to the

### Paris Conference on Viet Nam Holds 9th Plenary Session

THE 9th plenary Session of the Paris Conference was the Paris Conference was held on March 20,1060. Mr. Tran Bun Kiem head

of the NFL Delegation, who took the floor first, recalled the history and meaning of the Day of Viet Nam Nation-al Resistance against U.S. Imperialists (March 19). He pointed out that U.S. ruling reles who did not draw any lesson from their experience had been stepping up their aggression in Viet Nam. It against the war escalation by the Nixon Administration that the South Vietnamese people rose up with energy and success. In so doing, they were only exercising their right to self-defence which entitles them to wipe out the enemy in any part of South Viet Nam. The U.S. while they were conducting terroristic operations against the people, they were punished in their military South Viet Nam. The Nixon Administration had to bear full responsibility for the useless death of the GIs.

The NFL envoy energeti-cally protested the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet clique's crimes especially against Buddhists in South Viet Nam. He exposed the Americans' per-fidious manoeuvres at the Paris Conference where they have been trying to impose neo-colonialism on the South Vietnamese people by other means, as their armed forces have been unable to attain

Mr. Tran Buu Kiem declared: "What is most impor-tant is that the U.S. must withdraw totally and uncon-ditionally U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, because their presence there is a denial of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination".

Mr. Xuan Thuy, head of the Mr. Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN Government Delega-tion severely criticized Mr. Ni-xon's statements at his March 14, press conference. He cited concrete facts to show that the Nixon Administration had been stepping up the war in Vict Nam and even sent U.S. Vict Nam and even sent U.S. troops to violate the territory of Laos, while deliberately of Laos, while deliberately eluding the imperative and legitimate demand of the U.S. and world peoples for the cessation of U.S. aggression against Vict Nam and the total and unconditional with-drawal of U.S. statements of U.S. aggression of U.S. and the total and unconditional with-drawal of U.S. and the total and unconditional with-drawal of U.S. and the conditional with-drawal of U.S. and the drawal of U.S. and satellite

The DRVN chief negotiator

mand that the South Viet Nam PLAF and people cease their struggle or reduce it while the U.S. aggressors have a free hand to keep up and a free hand to keep intensify their aggressive war.

Referring to Mr Nixon's Referring to Mr Nixon's refusal of a rundown of U.S. troops in Viet Nam, Mr. Xuan Thuy declared: "I wish to remind that the Vietnamese people do not ask for their reduction, but for their total withdrawal from Viet Nam'

At the session, the repre-entatives of the Saigon sentatives of the Saigon administration and the U.S. rang the changes in the alleged PLAF pounding of civilians and breaches of promises, etc... Mr. Cabot Lodge, in particular, denied obstinately the bigger. the Nixon Administration's step-up of the war in Viet Nam, which he asserted had been kept "at the level of 1968."

These sophistries were roundly disposed of by the NFL and DRVN representatives. Said Mr. Xuan Thuy at the end of the meeting: "So Jong as the U.S. imperialists' aggression against Viet Nam continues, the Vietnamese propulsed." people will go on resisting it. U.S. escalation of the aggressive war will only stiffen the Vietnamese people's determination to fight".

hamlet the sharser the trees gunshots were heard distinctly in the neigh-bourhood. The lead team almost came to a stop. Kan Lich ran up and seeing the anxious look on everyone's face, she told herself: "I am in command here. Who else but I should take the lead in these moments?

She ran up ahead of the team. Soon the guerillas could already see the glimmering flames on the half-burnt cottages. A machine-gun kept spitting out long bursts in the direction of bursts in the direction of the forest border — Bullets whitzed past over the gue-rillas' heads. "If anything should happen, let me he the first to be hit". Kan Lich thought. She bit her lips, stooped a little and quickened her pace.

Moments later Kan Lak skilfully guided her group to a hut half destroyed by fire. roasting over some blazing thatch from the burnt house thatch from the burnt house. Their greedy eyes were glued on the pig, their rifles and outfits thrown pell-mell on the ground, and no one was standing guard.

Kan Trao gave a wink to Kan Lich for the signal to open up

Kan Lich pressed his shoul-ders down and whispered: "Not until we're nearer."

"Right, let's go closer", a Liberation Army fighter added

" Now that we are here, let's out the commanders and settle their hashes", she said with a terse finality.

The guerillas glanced at one another in perplexity. If we can dispose of the head," Kan Lich explained, "the rest will stampede like a beehive without their queen.

"Let's get closer, Kan Lich The COs often stay somewhere behind their troops' billets," the armyman said, pointing his finger to a house in the

Looking in that direction Kan Lich saw many silhouet-tes of enemy troops in a house spared by the fire.

She sprang to her feet and beckoned her men to follow her. To dodge the guards, Kan Lich took them by a long detour across a hill and approached the house from behind.

Pushing her way up the steep slope, she received many deep scratches on her face, despite her efforts to flatten the thorny bushes with her rifle butt.

As she was coming near. Kan Lich almost cried out of joy because the enemy unit command the those She could easily recognize three pupper officers because of the gleaming vellow badge on their should

"They are going to have lunch, that'll make the role a sight easier" Kan Lich decided

A talk officer suddenly rose up, threw away his engarette stump and said aloud "Come on, men, Let's have

"Come on men. Let's have a bite. Don't worry about the guerillas. They won't dare to turn up before dark." Kun Lich tried to suppress a laughter. She shot a quick glane, at his controller and eatsed her lift hame.

Her one may out

The carbines and rifle spoke at the same time.

The three officers were his

Not mutil ten minutes later could the enemy regroup and they fired transically in the direction of the Her task accomplished, Lich ordered the grot Lich ordered the group to break contact. She was the last to pull out, covering the retreat with deadly burst from her carbine

. Is she was firing back.
Kan Lich did not see a
vereper bigst stood in her
way. She tripped on it and
fell. The troops rushed it,
shouting hysterically. Hey,
shouting hysterically. Hey,
the Victory has tunble
Come on, don't let her
escape." Many others duried
up in a hurry.

An idea tlashed through An idea flashed through Kan Lich's mind. Overcoming her pain, she clenched her teeth, sat up and craveled to the carbine that lay a few yards away. Nimble as a panther she plunged into a bush to the left and ran back to flank the enemy. More puppet commandos wer rushing to the scene for a

Just at that moment ong burst of carbine hit them almost point blank. Three o them fell immediately and the rest took to their heels. Two other rounds followed. cutting down two other men.
Kan Lich smiled and said to
herself: "What a pity! None
of them would have escaped if all our men were here! puppet commandos ran helter skelter for their lives into the open field in the village from where they made for the brook and their post.

After HO PHUONG

(i) PLAF Hero Vai,

With the downing of two U.S. pilotless planes on March 19 and 21, 1969, the total number of aircraft lost by the U.S. in the DRVN since August 5, 1964 amounts to 3.272

#### MILITARY OPERATIONS

AS the PLAF offensives continue at an acce-lerated tempo since February 23, Giai Phong Press Agency gave last week details of important successes achieved.

The most remarkable were won ON THE SAIGON FRONT chiefly north west and east of that city.

In Day Tieng region, 64km In Dau Freng region, opkin northwest of Saigon, the Americans just suffered a crushing setback. On March 11, attacking the enemy in village No 2, the patriots killed and wounded 145 GIs and captured many others.
On March 13, in village No
22, they put out of action 70
enemy troops and downed enemy troops and downed three choppers. Three days later, on March 16th Ben Tranh position, 6km east, southeast of Dan Tieng, was the target of a third attack (since February 23) in which the enemy CP as well as 2 infantry companies of Brigade 3. Tropic Lightning Division and 2 artillery companies were wiped out after a twohour battle: 500 GIs were on the casualty list, 20 yehreles including many tanks and armoured cars, and

16 heavy guns destroyed or damaged. Let's recall that in the same position in less than 48 hours (between February 23 and 25) two U.S. mixed battalions, of about one thousand GIs, had been put out of action

Farther to the northwest, Tay Ninh province, on rch 8 last, southwest of provincial capital, an my counter attack was March enemy fought off: 160 enemy troops were killed or wounded, 4 choppers downed and 7 can-nons destroyed. The following I choppers owner, and y contop of the propers of

On Highway No 13, 97km north of Saigon, the Amer-

ican base at Quan Loi was pounded by the PLAF artil-lery on March 12 and 13:160 enemy troops including over one hundred GIs were killed or wounded, 6 helicopters downed or destroyed and 3 military vehicles destroyed.

East of Saigon, on the road East of Saigon, on the road to Vung Tau, on March 16, almost at the same time as the third successful engagement was being fought at Ben Tranh, the PLAF wiped out Battalion 3, Brigade I, Thai Black Penther Division in Heleva rubber plantation, an village, near Long Thanh. It was the second Than a runge near Long Than battalion put out of ac-tion in this locality within it days. In Saigon, the peo-ple's self-defence milittamen between February 25 and actions, chiefly against polica-men and security agents. A police station in the second town-district and an electric transformer station near pendence Palace" were blown pendence Palace" were blown up and about twenty ruffians and traitors punished.

IN THE MEKONG DELTA, the PLAF were particularly active in My Tho provin-ce about 60km southwest of Saigon between March 3 and 8. Binh Due base, HQ of U.S. Infantry Division 9, was ma-

ny times bombarded by the PLAF and 12 choppers and 2 cannons were destroyed and 3 vessels damaged. On March 15, the PLAF struck at major 15, the PLAI struck at major pital such as HQ of pupper Infantry Division 7, a military sector CP, the base of two artillery battalions, the military training centrated the central control of the installations were destroyed and more than one hundred enemy soldiers killed or wounded the base of one of the two battalions.

Meanwhile, 11 other target

Meanwhile, 11 other targets in various urban centres of the province were also hit; 665 adverse troops (over 100 G18) were pat out of action, 11 military vehicles and 3 cannons destroyed. On March 18, Highway No 4 was put out of order by the destruc-tion of the path of the con-tonial province of the con-to various urban centres

Farther South, in Tra Farther South, in Tra-Vinh province, on March 7, the PLAF badly mauled a puppet battalion by inflic-ting on it 250 casualties (in-cluding the battalion com-mander) in a rush at Trung Hiep, about one hundred kilometres southwest of Sai-

In Ben Tre province, on the night of March 14, a 5th wave of assaults was staged since February 23 against since February 23 against important positions in the provincial capital such as airfield, artillery park, armoured car base, administrative offices, "pacification" teams, etc, putting 140 enemy sol-diers out of action.

The enemy riverine task forces also sustained heavy losses: between February 16 and March 9, in 4 provinces alone, 64 vessels and motor launches were sunk or set

MOST PART OF SOUTH
MOST PART OF SOUTH
VIET NAM between
March 13 and 16, Cua Viet,
Dong Ha and Tan Lam,
along Highway N° 9, came
under heavy PLAF fire. 450
adverse troops (including 200
Gls) were killed or wounded.
Gls) were killed or wounded.
Linh, an American company
North of Tan Lam and
mixed company North of an inxed word out. mixed company North . Dong Ha, were wiped out.

In the engagements on Co Ca Va Hill, west of Hue, between Marah 4 and 15, 350 and 14 che enemy troops were mown de

enemy troops were mowndown and 14 choppers grounded.

In the first ten days of March, in Da Nang-Chu Lai region where fighting is still raging, the PLAF killed, wounded or captured 1,100 wounded or captured L100 adverse soldiers including 320 Gls, downed or destroyed 38 aircraft, mostly choppers, destroyed 23 military whicles and overturned a troop train. In Qui Nhon region, the South Korean Tiger Division lost 400 men and '8 helicopters in an operation to occurs Val. Nenne (Detween

occupy Nui Ngang (between February 27 and March 8).

#### Saigon Cracks Down on Buddhists

O<sup>N</sup> ... March 15. N March 15, 100n, the "grd Corps Area Field Trabunal" sentenced the Venerable Thich Thien Minh, Deputy Head of the Buddhist Institute, Head of the General Department of the Buddhist Youth in Saigon. to to years' hard labour, Saigon information sources Saigon information sources reported. Charged by Washington's henchmen with "having hidden rebels and concealed illegal arms and documents". Thich Thien Minh was arrested on Feb. 23, order with 50 students of the Minh was arrested on Peb. 23, 1998, with 50 students of the Saigon Buddhist Youth. 8 students accused of "rebel-tion" and tried at the same time as Thich Thien Minh. time as Thich Thien Minh, got penalties from 3 years impresonment to 20 years imprisona.

Before the tribunal the Venerable Thich Thien Minh strongly refuted the ground-less charges. A student less charges. A stude shouted: "I am not guilty. Following this fascist trial the Buddhists published pro-test resolutions in numerous meetings and distributed leatlets severely condemning leatlets severely condemning the Saigon administration. They stressed in a declaration that persecution of Buddhist should be expected to last as 'long as the,' present govern-ment' was in power. They staged a "sit in" in the pagoda of Ky Vien to de-nounce the Saigon regime and demand the re-establish-ment of peace.

On March to, the Van Hanh League of Buddhist Students sent the pupper a luministration a resolution he pupp-t resolution

ment of peace.

demanding that the Venerable Thich Thien Minh and the imprisoned students be set free. The Venerable Thich Thien Hoa, Head of the Buddhist Institute, rejected the false accusation against its deputy and stated: "When the nation is in distress, Christians and budden distress, Christians and budden to the control of the control of the topology of the control of the control of the Trich Don Hau, former Chief demanding that the Venerable Thich Don Hau, former Chief Representative of the Viet Nam Unified Buddhist Church Nam Unified Buddhist Church in Van Hanh and Thua Thien areas, deputy chairman of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, made public a declaration against the fascist measure taken by the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, calling ou the Buddhist believers and the South Victnamese people to join forces to overthrow the latter and help set up a

One day after the trial, Buddhists held a meeting in the An Quang Pagoda against such an "inhuman" measure. In their statement, they de-nounced Nguyen Van Thieu for having "taken advantage of the support of foreigners (i.e. U.S. imperialists Editor) to carry on Ngo Dinh Diem's program aimed at annihilat-ing Buddhism in numerous and savane ways." and savage ways.

will be recalled that It will be recalled that Buddhists in Saigon and other South Viet Nam cities had done their bits in toppling Ngo Dish Diem in 1993 and shaking the Thien-Ky regime with their actions in 1996. SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS and Cabinet Shake-up in Saigon

PREMIER" Tran Van Huong had a close shave of it on March 5, 1969 in Saigon.

The thug was arrested here and then. He was and then. He was carrying papers of "Government" army Intere and then. He was found carrying papers and and a Colt 12. He is said to confest so having received 10,000 piastres for the coup. Nothing very sensational indeed, considering the present political climate in earlier. Tran Anh, Rector ad interim of the Saigon University, had fallen to the bullets of another hired gunman and Tran Van Huorg had sent a representative to Anh was a close friend and advisor to Le Minh Tri, ex-Minister of Education, himself victim of a greander ex-Minister of Education, himself victim of a grenade

in January last. Remarkable enough, 'the on administration has Saigon refused Saigon administration has refused to disclose the identity of the murderer who has just missed Tran Van Huong by a hairbreath. And what is most disturbing nave found, link between the rockets at the factor of the rockets at the factor of the rockets and the factor of the rockets and the factor of the rockets and the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets of the rockets of the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets of the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets of the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets of the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets of the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets of the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets of the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets of the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets of the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets of the rockets of the rockets of the rockets are the rockets of the rockets o Van Huong. Hardly had Tran Huong recovered from the shock when Nguyen Van Thicu announced with a great ballyhoo on March 12 the reshuffling of his cabinet.

A vice-premier and eight A vice-premier and eight new ministers and vice-ministers have been picked up to team up with Tran Van Huong in a new "go-vernment". And what a "government"! A certain Nguyen Van Vang, ex-dele-gate of Ngo Dinh Diem in the Western part of Nam gate of Ngo Dinn Dien in the Western part of Nam Bo, was given the port-folio of "rural affairs" which Huong had cumulated with his functions of Prime Minister. General Tran Thien Minister. General Tran Thien

'Khiem was, promoted VicePremier and invested with
wide powers. He has been
especially entrusted with
"pacification" and "construction" and concurrently truction" and concurrently home affairs which allows him to control from top to bottom the administration as well as the police, and to distribute spoils at the provincial echelon.

provincial echelon.

It is also public knowledge
that Tran Thien Kheem, a
close associate of Thieu,
has been at daggers drawn
with Ky. Let us add that
Cao Van Than, a chief of
bureau under Diem, has
become Minister of Agrarian Agriculture

replacement of Denong Thai on, a Ky man.

In short, Thieu has killed several birds with one stone. He has clipped the wings of Tran Van Huong and ousted Tran Van Huong and ousted the last supporters of Nguyen Cao Ky from the governmental group while trying to cheat American and world opinion about his intention to "enlarge the democratic bases" of his government. As can be seen, he is a shrewd man who will not stop at anything to keep himself in power. himself in power

Such is the government which H. Cabot Lodge, the chief of the American delegation at the Paris Conference, has not ceased describing as a "constitutional" and "representative"

But the South Vietnamese are not to be taken in. All these palace quarrels that always end up in a settlement of accounts, together with this cabinet resluffle have only revealed the conflicts between various political grounders. flicts between various poli-tical groupings in Saigon and the fragility of the Thieu-Ky-Huong alliance. More than ever, they are demanding the replacement of the troika of traitors by a cabinet favouring restora-tion of peace in South Vie